



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2010

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

Northeast Man Sentenced to 15 years in jail for Narcotics Trafficking

Washington, D.C. - Thurman Hairston, 48, formerly of the 300 block of 17th Place, NE, Washington, D.C., was sentenced by the Honorable Reggie B. Walton in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to 15 years in jail today, after having plead guilty to Unlawful Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Crack Cocaine, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr. announced.

At his plea hearing, Hairston admitted that on October 13, 2008, officers of the Kansas Highway Patrol conducted a traffic stop on a rental vehicle traveling on Interstate 70 located in Saline County, Kansas. The officers approached the vehicle and found four occupants inside the vehicle, including Thurman Hairston and his brother, Donald Hairston, Jr., who were passengers in the vehicle. Upon determining that the driver of the vehicle had a suspended license the driver was placed under arrest, and a search of the vehicle was conducted. Recovered from inside the trunk of the vehicle was a bag containing 1,993 grams of powder cocaine. A search of Hairston resulted in the recovery of over \$40,000 in cash. Police recovered fingerprints from the bag containing the suspected cocaine, which matched Hairston's known fingerprints. Documents seized from the vehicle established that Hairston had rented the vehicle. Hairston was ultimately charged with cocaine trafficking in the United States District Court for the Kansas.

On May 6, 2009, Deputies from the United States Marshals Service were dispatched to the 1300 block of Clifton Street, Northwest, Washington, DC, in order to execute an arrest warrant from the District of Kansas against Mr. Hairston. While conducting surveillance in the area, the Marshals observed Hairston on multiple occasions going to and from a black 4 door Mercedes Benz bearing D.C. tags, and then meeting with individuals who approached him on foot and in vehicles. During the surveillance, the Marshals observed the defendant engaging in what appeared to be hand-to-hand transactions with these individuals.

The Marshals approached Hairston and placed him under arrest pursuant to the arrest warrant. During a search of the Mercedes, law enforcement personnel recovered 58 grams of crack cocaine and \$2,800 in cash wrapped in a rubber band. Hairston was charged with trafficking in crack cocaine, and the

drug charges against him in Kansas were transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to effectuate the plea. As part of the plea, Hairston agreed to forfeit his interest in the \$42,000 in cash seized from him in both cases, as well as the Mercedes vehicle in which the crack cocaine was recovered.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Marshals Service, and Metropolitan Police Department. Mr. Machen also praised the work of employees in his office, including paralegal Mia Beamon and legal assistant Diane Brashears. Finally, he thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven B. Wasserman and Sarah Schall, who prosecuted the case.

###